The Book8088

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Specs

- Intel 8088 CPU
- Optional 8087 co-processor
- 640 Kb RAM
- CGA compatible graphics
- Runs DOS

Basically an IBM XT

In the form factor of a netbook

Other features

- Built-in color screen
- OPL3 sound chip
- Extension port that is basically ISA (but needs an extra PCB)
- Compact flash as "hard disk"
- USB for mass storage

Issues

- Crappy screen
- Lack of connectivity
- Very limited use of USB (only up to 1 GB)
- Unclear legal situation of BIOS and OS

Conclusion

- ▶ Can run Area5150 (very cool demo!)
- ▶ Can use OPL3 for slightly cliché video game sounds (e.g. Adlib)
- ▶ Modern retro computing in a portable form factor
- ▶ Can be "freed" using a proper open source bios and FreeDOS (Tech Tangents)
- ▶ Otherwise quite limited

Alternatives

- Book 8088 v2/Pocket 8086 (adds VGA, serial/parallel port)
- Pocket 386
- Hand 386 (Handheld device with QWERTY keyboard)